In the specification:

Page 1, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in Italian Patent Application MI 2002 A002146 filed on October 10, 2002. This Italian Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, between lines 29 and 30 insert the following:

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 4, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Between lines 8 and 9, insert the following heading:

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**